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Agenda item 134

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 134 are set out in the report of the Committee contained in document A/66/637.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 27th, 29th and 30th meetings, on 6 and 15 March and 2 April 2012. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.27, 29 and 30).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Limited budgetary discretion

Report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion (A/66/570)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/7/Add.18)

Financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council

Report of the Secretary-General on financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council (A/66/558 and Corr.1)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/7/Add.16)

Please recycle

Capital master plan

Ninth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan (A/66/527)

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for financing associated costs for 2012 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan (A/66/527/Add.1)

Report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010 (A/66/5 (Vol. V))

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010 (A/66/324)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/7/Add.11)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/286 (Part I) (sect. V.A.))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of capital master plan procurement and contract management, including change orders (A/66/179)

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.31

4. At its 30th meeting, on 2 April, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013" (A/C.5/66/L.31), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, the Netherlands and Serbia.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.31 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

The General Assembly,

I
Limited budgetary discretion

Recalling section III of its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006 and paragraph 115 of its resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

II
Financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council

Recalling its resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

III
Capital master plan

Recalling its resolutions 54/249 of 23 December 1999, 55/238 of 23 December 2000, 56/234 and 56/236 of 24 December 2001 and 56/286 of 27 June 2002, section II of its resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, its resolution 59/295 of 22 June 2005, section II of its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005, its resolutions 60/256 of 8 May 2006, 60/282 of 30 June 2006, 61/251 of 22 December 2006, 62/87 of

[1] A/66/570.
[2] A/66/7/Add.18.
[3] A/66/558 and Corr.1
[4] A/66/7/Add.16.

10 December 2007, 63/270 of 7 April 2009, 64/228 of 22 December 2009 and 65/269 of 4 April 2011, section II.B of its resolution 66/233 of 24 December 2011 and its decisions 58/566 of 8 April 2004, 65/543 of 24 December 2010 and 66/555 of 24 December 2011,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to the physical environment on an equal basis with others,

Having considered the ninth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan,[5] the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for financing the associated costs for 2012 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan,[6] the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010,[7] the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010[8] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9] as well as the relevant section of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011[10] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of capital master plan procurement and contract management, including change orders,[11]

1. *Takes note* of the ninth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan,[5] the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for financing the associated costs for 2012 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan,[6] the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010,[7] the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010,[8] the relevant section of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011[10] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of capital master plan procurement and contract management, including change orders;[11]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Accepts* the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010;

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report;

5. *Reaffirms* its resolution 65/269 and requests the Secretary-General to fully implement its provisions;

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[5] A/66/527.

[6] A/66/527/Add.1.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5*, vol. V (A/66/5 (Vol. V)).

[8] A/66/324.

[9] A/66/7/Add.11.

[10] A/66/286 (Part I), sect. V.A.

[11] A/66/179.

6. *Stresses* that accountability is a central pillar of effective and efficient management that requires attention and strong commitment at the highest level of the Secretariat, as defined in paragraph 8 of its resolution 64/259 of 29 March 2010;

7. *Expresses deep concern* about the sudden and unexplained increase in the cost overrun of the project, which represents a projected increase of 23 per cent of the total approved budget, and the lack of transparent and timely information provided to the General Assembly on the evolution of the project budget, forecasts, risks and projected overruns;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the underlying causes of the projected increases and urges him to robustly contain such overruns, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General make every effort to avoid budgetary increases through sound project management practices and to ensure that the capital master plan project is completed within the budget as approved in its resolution 61/251, as a matter of urgency;

9. *Recalls* its decision 66/555 and decides to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to 135 million United States dollars for resources required for the capital master plan project, including its associated costs, through 2012, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at the beginning of the main part of its sixty-seventh session, in the context of the tenth progress report, on practical options to reduce or offset the overall projected costs and to finance such commitments while remaining within the approved budget and scope of the project;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to urgently undertake an in-depth technical construction audit of the capital master plan, emphasizing the circumstances that led to the projected cost overrun of 433 million United States dollars, and to report the results to the General Assembly at the beginning of the main part of its sixty-seventh session;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available the necessary resources to enable the Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake the in-depth construction audit requested in paragraph 10 of the present resolution;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report in the context of the tenth annual progress report on the measures undertaken to address the other risks identified by the Board of Auditors in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010;

13. *Expresses deep concern* about the lack of clarity regarding the plans for renovation of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the South Annex Building, and requests the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly, in the context of the tenth annual report, information on the progress achieved in the renovation of the South Annex Building and the Library as provided for within the overall scope of the capital master plan;

14. *Urges* the Secretary-General to accelerate his efforts to manage the costs pertaining to the early termination of the swing spaces with a view to optimizing, as much as possible, the renegotiated rental contracts, and to report accordingly to the General Assembly in the tenth annual report, including detailed information about their duration and payments;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to update the General Assembly through regular informal briefings, in addition to submitting annual progress reports, on all aspects of the implementation of the capital master plan project, including the current status, financial situation, significant activities carried out since the previous report and risk analysis information outlining any risks identified, actions to be taken to mitigate risks, status and trends, and to update the relevant information on its website on a regular basis;

16. *Requests* the Office of the Capital Master Plan to brief the General Assembly no later than the second resumed part of its sixty-sixth session, as well as in the early part of its sixty-seventh session;

17. *Encourages* those Member States that have outstanding assessments to the capital master plan to pay those assessments;

18. *Reaffirms* its resolution 62/269 of 20 June 2008, and requests the Secretary-General to comply fully with the relevant provisions contained therein;

19. *Decides* to revert to this matter at the main part of its sixty-seventh session.